



Borough of Carnegie  
One Veterans Way  
Carnegie, PA 15106

February 24, 2012

\*\*\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

The Borough of Carnegie has announced that the annual Arts & Heritage Festival will not be held this year. After much discussion, reflection and evaluation, Borough Officials have decided that a new direction was needed for this annual event which has occurred every weekend after Labor Day for the past 24 years.

Many factors contributed to this decision, including dwindling sponsorship money, the difficulty in attracting volunteers who are critical to the success of the Festival, and the ever growing dependence of selling alcohol to ensure the financial success of the Festival. Additionally, the disruption to our central business district for nearly a week caused by the street closures had become a growing concern in these tough economic times. Festival organizers and borough officials also indicated that over the past several years the festival generated more criticism and complaints, rather than positive support from the community which appears to indicate that the Festival is not meeting the needs or desires of the community

Although the Festival as we have known it is ending, we are extremely excited about the future of special events in our community. For the past year, Carnegie has been involved in a partnership with Allegheny Together, a program of Allegheny County Economic Development, which lends its expertise in developing a vibrant business community. An important facet of this program centers on community activities and events that will better connect our residents to the business community.

In conjunction with Allegheny Together and the Carnegie Community Development Cooperation, we will devote 2012 to developing a comprehensive plan for future community activities. We will gauge what our community (both business & residential) wants through a series of town meetings and surveys and encourage citizen volunteerism and participation which will be a key component as we move forward.

From its humble beginnings in the 1980's, the Arts & Heritage Festival grew throughout the years into a major event that attracted thousands of people. Many people, including the late Junia Campbell who was the first Chairperson, former Mayor Jim Pascoe who oversaw the expansion of music, and Leigh White, who was Chairperson for the last 4 years, are responsible for the success of the Festival over the years. While we take great pride in the history of the Festival, we look forward to the future and capitalizing on the many lessons we have learned to create an even more vibrant and active community.